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U.S. Serial No.: 10/799,534
Filed: March 12, 2004
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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A ventricular assist device for a heart, which comprises:

a pump portion;

an inflow tube protruding from the pump portion; and

an adapter sleeve of a first predetermined length attached to the inflow tube forming an extended inflow tube having a total length greater than the first predetermined length, said adapter sleeve carrying an adjustable attachment member to permit said adapter sleeve to extend or retract from an end of ~~said inflow tube~~ ~~permit attachment of the adapter sleeve to the inflow tube at a range of longitudinal positions.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The ventricular assist device of claim 1, wherein said adapter sleeve includes a first end having a coupling in order to attach the adapter sleeve to a ventricular apex of a heart.

3. (Previously Presented) The ventricular assist device of claim 2, wherein said adapter sleeve further comprises a sewing ring wherein the coupling attaches to said sewing ring for attachment to the ventricular apex.

4. (Previously Presented) The ventricular assist device of claim 1, wherein the adapter sleeve comprises a smooth cylinder of titanium.

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5. (Previously Presented) The ventricular assist device of claim 1, wherein said adapter sleeve includes cylindrical grooves forming perforations on the surface of the sleeve whereby the sleeve may be separated along said grooves.

6. (Previously Presented) The ventricular assist device of claim 1, wherein said adapter sleeve is formed of ceramic.

7. (Previously Presented) The ventricular assist device of claim 1, wherein said adapter sleeve comprises a gripping member for attaching the extended inflow tube to the ventricular apex.

8. (Previously Presented) The ventricular assist device of claim 1 wherein the inflow tube includes a bent end.

9. (Original) The ventricular assist device of claim 1 wherein the inflow tube includes an extendable end.

10. (Original) The ventricular assist device of claim 1 wherein the inflow tube includes a rotatable end.

11. (Original) The ventricular assist device of claim 1 wherein the inflow tube includes an inner sleeve that is rotatably and slidably mounted therein.

12. (Currently Amended) A ventricular assist device for a heart, which comprises:

a pump portion;

a sewing ring;

an inflow tube protruding from the pump portion; and

an adapter sleeve of a first predetermined length attached to the inflow tube forming an extended inflow tube having a total length greater than the first predetermined length, said adapter sleeve including a first end having a coupling in order